



FY 2017 Recommended Budget Budget Question

Board Question #: 89

BUDGET QUESTION: Why are State and Federal SNAP assistance payments decreasing? Is it because State and Federal funding is being capped, because people are no longer qualifying for assistance, or a combination of each?

RESPONSE: The data shown on the slide titled "State and Federal Assistance Payments" (slide 12) from the Social Services director's presentation to the Board at its March 8 meeting reflects program payments made to eligible Spotsylvania recipients by the State and Federal governments. Such funding does not run through the County. SNAP benefits are federally funded - there are no state or local monies involved in SNAP benefits paid to clients.

The decrease seen in the aggregate value of SNAP benefits in Spotsylvania County, while not definitively determined at this time, is likely a combination of:

- a decrease in SNAP enrollees due to reintroduction of the ABAWD (Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents) limited term eligibility;
- fewer household/individuals eligible for benefits due to increases in household income so no longer eligible or in need of SNAP assistance; and
- households receiving a reduced level of benefit payment due to increases in the household income but still maintaining eligibility for some level of SNAP benefit.

Benefit amounts paid to clients were reduced in October 2013 when stimulus funding for an enhanced level of benefit expired. However that would not be a contributor to the decrease in aggregate value of benefits between 2014 and 2015.